

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

(Currently Amended) {1} 1. An absorbent article comprising:  
a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that  
contacts with a human body;  
a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface  
opposite to the topsheet; and  
an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the  
backsheet; wherein:  
a three-dimensional gather is formed by a folding portion at  
which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side  
substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal  
direction of the absorbent body and a nonwoven fabric at least  
partially adhered to the folding portion; and  
the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with  
the nonwoven fabric.

(Currently Amended) {2} 2. The absorbent article according  
to Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface  
opposite to a surface of the folding portion that face the  
topsheet.

(Currently Amended) {3} 3. The absorbent article according  
to Claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to the  
backsheet from an adhesion starting point at an inner side in a  
width direction than a folding starting point of the folding  
portion.

(Currently Amended) {4} 4. The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface of the folding portion that face the topsheet.

(Currently Amended) {5} 5. The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric is adhered to the topsheet.

(Currently Amended) {6} 6. An absorbent article comprising:  
a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;  
a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and  
an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; wherein:  
a three-dimensional gather is formed by covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet.

(Currently Amended) {7} 7. The absorbent article according to Claim 6, wherein a region of the topsheet positioned at an upper face of the absorbent body is liquid-permeable, while a region that covers the backsheet is less liquid-permeable than

the region positioned at the upper face of the absorbent body.

(Currently Amended) ~~{8}~~ 8. An absorbent article comprising:  
a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that  
contacts with a human body;  
a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface  
opposite to the topsheet;  
an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the  
backsheet; and  
a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be  
raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the  
absorbent body; wherein the absorbent article includes:  
a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the  
topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the  
longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;  
an attachment portion at which a part of the folding portion  
is adhered to both side portions in the longitudinal direction of  
the topsheet; and  
an adhesion section at which the attachment portion is  
folded up to the topsheet side and is adhered to the topsheet;  
wherein the folding portion constitute at least a part of  
the three-dimensional gather.

(Currently Amended) ~~9~~ 9. The absorbent article according to Claim 8, wherein the three-dimensional gather is composed of the folding portion and a non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric at least partially adhered to the folding portion, and the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric.

(Currently Amended) ~~10~~ 10. The absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface opposite to a surface of the folding portion that face the topsheet.

(Currently Amended) ~~11~~ 11. The absorbent article according to Claim 10, wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to the backsheet from an adhesion starting point at an inner side in a width direction than a folding starting point of the folding portion.

(Currently Amended) ~~12~~ 12. The absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein:

the backsheet includes a ramie nonwoven fabric; and  
the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabric is adhered to a surface of the folding portion that face the topsheet.

(Currently Amended) ~~13~~ 13. An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;

a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet;

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and

a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, wherein:

the three-dimensional gather is formed by covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet; and

an adhesion portion is formed in a vicinity of a folding starting point of the folding portion substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by folding up the topsheet to the topsheet side and adhering the topsheets to each other.

(Currently Amended) ~~{14}~~ 14. The absorbent article according to Claim 13, wherein a region of the topsheet positioned at an upper face of the absorbent body is liquid-permeable, while a region that covers the backsheet is non liquid-permeable.

(Currently Amended) ~~15~~ 15. An inner absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;

a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein:

a three-dimensional gather is formed by a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, and a nonwoven fabric that is adhered to a surface opposite to a surface of the folding portion that face the topsheet and is also adhered to the backsheet from an inner side in a width direction of a folding starting point of the folding portion as an adhesion starting point; and

the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the nonwoven fabric.

(Currently Amended) ~~16~~ 16. An inner absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;

a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the

backsheet, wherein:

a three-dimensional gather is formed by a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body and a nonwoven fabric in which one end portion in the longitudinal direction is adhered to a surface of the folding portion that face the topsheet and the other end portion in the longitudinal direction is adhered to the topsheet; and

the three-dimensional gather has a free end structured with the nonwoven fabric.

(Currently Amended) {17} 17. The absorbent article according to Claim 16, wherein the nonwoven fabric is folded up and the three-dimensional gather has a free end as a folding starting point of the nonwoven fabric.

(Currently Amended) {18} 18. An inner absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;

a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet; and

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein:

a three-dimensional gather is provided by covering both

surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet.

(Currently Amended) ~~{19}~~ 19. The inner absorbent article according to any one of Claims 15 to 18, wherein the folding portion of the backsheet has a positioning mark in the longitudinal direction.

(Currently Amended) ~~{20}~~ 20. The inner absorbent article according to any one of Claims 15 to ~~19~~ 18, wherein an interspace is provided between the topsheet and the backsheet along the longitudinal direction of both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body.

(Currently Amended) ~~{21}~~ 21. An inner absorbent article, comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;

a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet;

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and

a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the

absorbent body, wherein the inner absorbent article includes:

a folding portion at which the backsheet is folded up to the topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

an attachment portion at which a part of the folding portion is adhered to both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the topsheet; and

an adhesion section at which the attachment portion is folded up to the topsheet side and is adhered to the topsheet,

wherein the folding portion constitutes at least a part of the three-dimensional gather.

(Currently Amended) ~~{22}~~ 22. An inner absorbent article, comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that contacts with a human body;

a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet;

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and

a three-dimensional gather formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, wherein:

the three-dimensional gather is formed by covering both surfaces of a folding portion of the backsheet folded up to the

topsheet side substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by extending the topsheet;

an adhesion portion is formed in a vicinity of a folding starting point of the folding portion substantially along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, by folding up the topsheet to the topsheet side and adhering the topsheets to each other.